

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 00-23-120, filed 11/22/00, effective 12/23/00)

WAC 246-101-505 Duties of the local health officer or the local health department. Local health officers or the local health department shall:

- (1) Review and determine appropriate action for:
 - (a) Each reported case or suspected case of a notifiable condition;
 - (b) Any disease or condition considered a threat to public health; and
 - (c) Each reported outbreak or suspected outbreak of disease, requesting assistance from the department in carrying out investigations when necessary; ~~((and~~
 - ~~((d) Instituting disease prevention and infection control, isolation, detention, and quarantine measures necessary to prevent the spread of communicable disease, invoking the power of the courts to enforce these measures when necessary.))~~
- (2) Establish a system at the local health department for maintaining confidentiality of written records and written and telephoned notifiable conditions case reports;
- (3) Notify health care providers, laboratories, and health care facilities within the jurisdiction of the health department of requirements in this chapter;
- (4) Notify the department of cases of any condition notifiable to the local health department (except animal bites) upon completion of the case investigation;
- (5) Distribute appropriate notification forms to persons responsible for reporting;
- (6) Notify the principal health care provider:
 - (a) If possible, prior to initiating a case investigation by the local health department; and
 - (b) For HIV infection, not contact the HIV-infected person directly without considering the recommendations of the principal health care provider on the necessity and best means for conducting the case investigation, unless:
 - (i) The principal health care provider cannot be identified; or
 - (ii) Reasonable efforts to reach the principal health care provider over a two-week period of time have failed;
- (7) Allow laboratories to contact the health care provider ordering the diagnostic test before initiating patient contact if requested and the delay is unlikely to jeopardize public health;
- (8) Conduct investigations and institute control measures ~~((consistent with those indicated in the seventeenth edition, 2000 of Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, edited by James Chin, published by the American Public Health Association (copy is available for review at the department and at each local health department), except:~~
 - ~~((a) When superseded by more up-to-date measures; or~~
 - ~~((b) When other measures are more specifically related to Washington state))~~ in accordance with chapter 246-100 WAC;
- (9) The local health department may negotiate alternate arrangements for meeting the reporting requirements under this chapter through cooperative agreement between the local health department and any health care provider, laboratory or health care facility;
- (10) Each local health officer has the authority to:
 - (a) Carry out additional steps determined to be necessary to verify a

diagnosis reported by a health care provider;

(b) Require any person suspected of having a reportable disease or condition to submit to examinations required to determine the presence of the disease or condition;

(c) Investigate any case or suspected case of a reportable disease or condition or other illness, communicable or otherwise, if deemed necessary;

(d) Require the notification of additional conditions of public health importance occurring within the jurisdiction of the local health officer.